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Title: Regarding need to allocate funds for setting up of Desalination Plants at Chennai, Ramanathapuram and Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu.

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SHRI J.J.T. NATTERJEE (THOOTHUKUDI): Tamil Nadu is faced with the problem of acute drinking water shortage with very little surface water and depleting ground water resources. This leaves no option but to go in for major desalination plants to convert sea water into drinking water. Tuticorin is also a water starved area. So the Tamil Nadu Government has drawn up a plan to set up a 100 MLD capacity desalination plant at a cost of Rs.1500 crore. The State Government is submitting the detailed project report to the Government of India. The State Government has requested the Central Government to bear at least 50% of the cost of the proposed project to be taken up in Chennai, Ramanathapuram and Tuticorin. I urge upon the Union Water Resources Ministry and the Urban Development Ministry to take up this issue with the Finance Ministry for allocation of funds in the next Budget for the benefit of the people of Tuticorin Constituency.